



# Future Educator Honor Roll

## 2022

"Educators are training the next generation of artists, engineers, scientists and health professionals that will power our economy and enliven our communities. They truly make all other professions possible. We want all teachers and administrators—and especially our young educators—to know Coloradans support and appreciate their invaluable work."

-Dr. Angie Paccione  
Executive Director, Colorado Department of Higher Education



# 2022 Future Educator Honor Roll

## Adams State University



### **Emma DeHerrera**

Secondary Science

Emma DeHerrera is from Monte Vista. She graduated from Monte Vista High School and attends Adams State University pursuing a degree in secondary education with an emphasis in biology. She has wanted to be a teacher for as long as she can remember, and there are many reasons why education is important to her.

"Since science is a universal language, I feel very fortunate to be able to share this subject in a way that is inclusive to all."

Emma exemplifies excellence in teaching, service, and building positive relationships with students, which is what Adams State University strives for in preparing our teacher candidates.

Video Clip: <https://youtube.com/shorts/vQ4KABaLbn8>



### **Aleceya Mortensen**

Elementary Education

Aleceya Mortensen lives in the San Luis Valley and is in her last semester as a senior in elementary education at Adams State University. She is also a teacher of record teaching third grade at Haskin elementary.

"I decided to pursue teaching because of the impact my teachers had on me, and my love for kiddos. I have enjoyed teaching this past year and am looking forward to the upcoming years."

Aleceya has consistently demonstrated strong performance in the areas of instruction, classroom management and going above and beyond to serve her school and community. Her appointment as a Teacher of Record during her senior year is a testament to the level of dedication that Aleceya brings to the profession.

Video Clip: <https://youtu.be/Wxpx4XmIUZk>

# 2022 Future Educator Honor Roll

## Cherry Creek School District - Future Educator Program



### **Natalee Gates**

Elementary Education

Natalee Gates is a junior at Cherokee Trail High School, where she is part of the Future Educator Apprenticeship Program. There, she has the opportunity to work as a paraeducator at Altitude Elementary School every week. Outside of her apprenticeship, she is a member of the National Honor Society and she works after school in the before/aftercare program at Altitude. She has grown up in the Cherry Creek School District and has always had teaching in mind as her dream job.

"Every day I value being able to work with incredible teachers who are shaping and supporting the lives of their students. I hope to one day be that teacher."

Natalee was selected for this honor because she is a natural teacher. She consistently submits incredibly detailed work that shows insight and effort. She is an amazing role model for her peers.



### **Aspyn Myers**

Elementary Education

Aspyn Myers was born in Utah but moved to Colorado when she was five. She decided to pursue education because she has always had a connection with children. Through her many years of babysitting and constant exposure to younger kids, she has been very lucky to know what she wants to do for the rest of her life.

"The feeling of being a kid again, seeing these kids excel, and making strong relationships with them is the highlight of my job."

Aspyn Myers is exemplary, her positive attitude is contagious, and her true passion for teaching is obvious every day.

# 2022 Future Educator Honor Roll

## Colorado Christian University



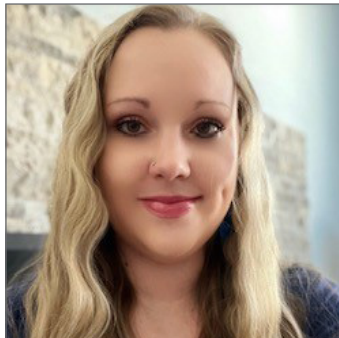
### **Faith Johnson**

Elementary Education

Faith Johnson is an outstanding educator from Monument. She student taught at DaVinci Academy in Colorado Springs in District 20, and at Foothills and Prospect Valley Elementaries in Jefferson County Public Schools during her field experiences. She will be teaching kindergarten at DaVinci Academy in the fall of 2022.

"I am passionate about teaching every student well with compassion and high standards. I help all students learn and grow through kindness and support."

Faith is collaborative and teachable which benefits her students as she strengthens her teacher team. She uses data to develop lessons that benefit her students' growth academically.



### **Jamie Leopold**

Secondary Science

Jamie Leopold joined the alternative licensing program after she had children of her own. They are one of the driving forces in her life that motivated her to teach. She has always wanted to teach at her alma mater Brighton High School. She is enthusiastic about teaching high school students and feels they need a strong advocate for them in the classroom. Not only is she empathetic to what high school students face in today's society she believes that they all can learn.

"I share my love of science with my students, which motivates them to learn."

Jamie has demonstrated an outstanding work ethic and is one of the most effective beginning teachers in our program.



# 2022 Future Educator Honor Roll

## Colorado Christian University



### **Timothy Newman**

Elementary Education

Timothy (Timmy) Newman lives in northern Colorado where he enjoys an active outdoor lifestyle as an avid cyclist while also pursuing his elementary education degree.

Timmy was selected for this recognition because he is a model representative of the future of the profession. He is an astute learner, a supportive colleague, a critical thinker and a principled professional.



### **Heidi Tazelaar**

Special Education

Heidi is from Oakdale, California and is a special education major at Colorado Christian University. Her student teaching has been at South Lakewood Elementary. She has also had placements at Dennison Elementary, Euclid Middle School and Alice Terry Elementary. During her time at CCU, Heidi worked with special needs students at a summer camp and has completed training to be a behavior technician to better work with her students.

"I believe that all students can learn and I love to find those moments where each child shines."

For Heidi, working with students with disabilities is a calling. Her field experiences have allowed her to expand her tool belt to create opportunities for success. Her ability to plan a lesson, develop an IEP, and create a safe classroom has always been exemplary, but it is her heart for each child that sets her apart from most.

Video clip: <https://youtu.be/vGtP2jQ5cXs>

"Education is improving the  
lives of others and leaving your  
community and the world better  
than you found it."

– Marian Wright Edelman

# 2022 Future Educator Honor Roll

## Colorado Mesa University



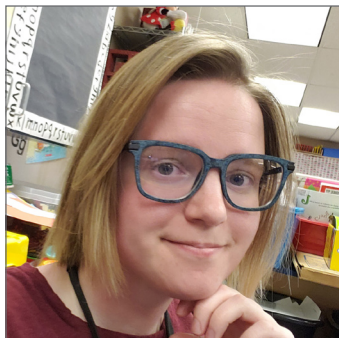
### **Lacey Hoselton**

Elementary Education

Lacey Hoselton will graduate from Colorado Mesa University in May of 2022 with a bachelor's of liberal arts in elementary education with an emphasis in social science. Lacey grew up in Bayfield and has always wanted to become a teacher.

"Growing up, I was able to look to my aunt, a teacher, as well as other amazing teachers and knew that I wanted to make an impact on children in the way those educators have."

Lacey Hoselton has a natural feel for being in the classroom with the ability to read students beautifully while bringing innovation and depth to her lessons. She digs deep into subject areas asking sophisticated questions enticing students along with her in the process of learning.



### **Madeline Woolley**

Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood  
Special Education

Madeline Woolley is a highly committed university student and preservice teacher. She has excelled in all courses with a determined, tenacious, positive attitude to learn all she can to be prepared for effective teaching with a diverse class of students. The transition she made from being a full-time student to a full-time student teacher amidst many challenges, was flawless.

Madeline's outstanding performance in all courses, the strong, supportive relationships she has developed with her cohort members and instructors, and her unconditional love and acceptance of all children make her stand out from the crowd.

# 2022 Future Educator Honor Roll

## Colorado Mountain College



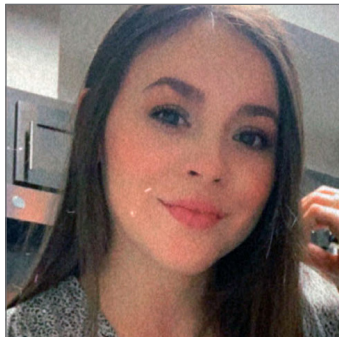
### **Carmen Arellano**

Elementary Education, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education, Bilingual Specialist, Spanish K-12

Carmen Arellano graduated from Summit High School and is a teacher education student on Colorado Mountain College's Summit Campuses. Along with her preparation program, she is busy raising her daughter and has worked in a number of the local district schools. As a multilingual learner, Carmen is passionate about working with diverse students and upon graduation in May 2022, will accept a teaching position in her local district. Carmen will be among the most highly qualified teachers in her district to work with multilingual learners.

Carmen demonstrates the tenacity and perseverance of students who come from our local school districts and pursue teaching as a profession at their local college.

Video clip: <https://flipgrid.com/s/oHQV4dstQ6dM>



### **Diana Loera**

Elementary Education, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education, Bilingual Specialist, and Spanish K-12

Diana Loera is a graduate of Eagle County Schools and a teacher education student on Colorado Mountain College's Edwards Campus. Along with her preparation program, Diana has worked to support community members, especially women, in a local not-for-profit foundation. Diana started learning English in middle school, and as a multilingual learner, she is passionate about working with diverse students in her local district. She has already accepted a teaching position in an elementary school in her community and will graduate in May 2022.

Even as an undergraduate, Diana demonstrates strong leadership skills in her cohort as well as in her community. She will pave the path for future educators with her passion for finding professional development for multilingual teachers in the languages they teach in.

# 2022 Future Educator Honor Roll

## Colorado State University



### **Isabella Olsson**

Family and Consumer Sciences

Isabella Olsson grew up in Breckenridge and entered CSU in wildlife biology. After two years of questioning her major choice and experiencing a life-altering event during her sophomore year of college— the loss of her brother and best friend— Bella did a lot of soul-searching and realized that one of the things she enjoyed the most was working with kids. She used her love of teaching children and youth swimming to begin her exploration of a teaching career. Bella verbally committed to a full-time fall teaching position at Mountain View High School in Loveland before she completed her student teaching.

Isabella was selected because she overcame a life-altering experience to find her passion.



### **Hannah Ramirez**

Secondary English Language Arts

Hannah has demonstrated extreme resilience in her time at CSU, despite many personal struggles. To give a bit of a background of her life—her father is the oldest child and grew up in Mexico. In third grade, he had to drop out of school to care for his siblings. He came to the U.S. when he was in eighth grade and continued to work (I believe to farm). Hannah describes him as one of the smartest people she knows. Her mother grew up in poverty and she graduated from college and is a teacher. She talks a lot about the dichotomy of having a mother who is a teacher and a father who didn't have access to schooling. This has made her think often about schooling and access. She is passionate about equity and very passionate about education

Hannah fills my life (and many others) with light, and I am proud to nominate her.



# 2022 Future Educator Honor Roll

## Colorado State University Pueblo



### Erin Case

Secondary Science

Erin was born and raised in Colorado. While attending Legend High School, she began to volunteer at church Sunday school, where she developed a passion for teaching. Combining her fascination with science and a new love for education, she began to find her place in pursuing licensure for secondary science.

Erin is a well-rounded future educator whose passion and dedication make her an excellent choice.



### Taylor Strupp

Elementary Education

Taylor is from San Tan Valley, AZ and has always wanted to teach. She even played school with her little sister, Cara, all the time while growing up. She is also an accomplished athlete, earning an RMAC All-Academic Honor Roll recognition for softball and academics. She has volunteered for the Special Olympics and has health and safety certifications and trainings to help her care for kids.

She stood out as someone who deserved recognition as an all-around special program completer.

Video clip: <https://youtube.com/shorts/oQEOIzdqQwY?feature=share>

## Fort Lewis College



### Denica Tafoya

Early Childhood Education

Denica Tafoya is originally from Santo Domingo Pueblo, New Mexico. She served as the 2021-22 Hozhoni Ambassador for Fort Lewis College, the campus-wide representative of Fort Lewis's Native students and its commitment to Native American education. She is an exemplary student and leader in the Teacher Education program.

# 2022 Future Educator Honor Roll

## Friends School Teacher Preparation Program



**Tessa Konik**

Elementary Education

Tessa grew up in Colorado Springs. While working as an assistant teacher at a Montessori school and a local youth shelter, she decided to combine her passions for working with children and supporting people experiencing poverty. This led her to pursue a master's in educational equity and cultural diversity at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Tessa is a highly dedicated and intentional teacher. She is skilled at building and maintaining strong relationships in her classroom, seeing and believing in her students as amazing, competent, and capable individuals. She is someone who we're sure will never stop learning, reflecting, and growing to be a better teacher and human being.



**Nicholas Morris**

Elementary Education

Nicholas was born and raised in Boulder. After studying math at CU, he moved to South Korea to teach English as a means to live and work in a foreign country but ended up falling in love with education and moving back to the U.S. to get his teaching license through the Friends School TPP and become an elementary school teacher. His passion is teaching math: he loves sharing his knowledge and excitement by igniting a love of the subject and showing every student that they can excel at it. This is why he's excited that next school year he'll be teaching 2nd- and 3rd-grade math at Bixby School, a small independent school in Boulder (a full circle moment because he went to Bixby as a kid!).

Nicholas is a thoughtful, caring and patient educator. He challenges his students daily to reach their potential, even when they don't yet believe they are capable. Nicholas positions himself as an ally for others and regularly advocates for equity in education through thoughtful questions and actions.

# 2022 Future Educator Honor Roll

## Jeffco Public Schools, Colorado Teacher Cadet



**Catalina Holly**  
Elementary Education

Catalina Holly is a junior at Evergreen High School and attends the education and leadership program at Warren Tech North. As a teacher cadet this year, Catalina has interned at Wilmot Elementary School earning 250 hours of field experience. Catalina is passionate about giving every child the chance to flourish and succeed in school. Catalina has a bright, energetic attitude and is a natural-born teacher.

Catalina was chosen because she is a strong student academically and has excelled through her intensive field experience. Catalina has exemplified integrity, dedication and work ethic and is very deserving of this honor.

## Littleton Public Schools, Teacher Cadet



**Adisa Smajic**  
Elementary Education

Adisa Smajic is from Littleton. She is pursuing education because she believes that she can have a great impact on future students.

"I believe that I can support and encourage students in any way they may need. I have a desire to be a part of a larger community of those helping our future generations."

Adisa has the qualities of an outstanding educator; she is dedicated to children, enjoys learning herself, is reflective in her practicum experience, and has the heart to help children and make the world a better place for them.

**"Teachers make all other  
professions possible."**

– Anonymous

# 2022 Future Educator Honor Roll

## Metropolitan State University of Denver



### **Savannah Garcia**

Elementary Education with a concentration in Applied Developmental Psychology

Savannah is from Commerce City. She decided to pursue education because of her fourth-grade teacher Mrs. Evenson. Mrs. Evenson was always there to support Savannah, she always stayed after school to help her with whatever she needed. Savannah wanted to become a teacher so that she can be a Mrs. Evenson for her students. Savannah will constantly advocate for her students. She also runs a successful photography business.

"None of this would've been possible without my favorite fourth-grade teacher Mrs. Evenson."

Savannah loves her students and wants the best for them. This comes across in her lessons and interactions with her students. She strives to be and do better to grow in her craft as well as reflect on her teaching. Savannah is open to feedback and consistently applies it.

### **Rachel Hergert**

Special Education

Rachel Hergert started her education career as a paraprofessional. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in teaching and is a special education teacher.

Rachel's top priority in becoming a special education teacher is to advocate for students. She believes the essence of special education is to give unique minds room to flourish. Her hope as a special education teacher is to support students in growing in their academics and their ability to self-advocate.

### **Tulasha Humagai**

Elementary Education, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education

Tulasha Humagai is a current elementary education student teacher. She is from Nepal. She wanted to pursue a career in teaching because it is tied to who she is. As a student who was an English language learner, she struggled in school. Tulasha faced various barriers throughout her student career and wanted to be someone who is there for students like her.

Tulasha wants to be better for her students. Not only does she listen intently but she applies any feedback given instantly! She works hard to make her lessons engaging and meaningful for her students. Tulasha will make a difference in all her future students.



# 2022 Future Educator Honor Roll

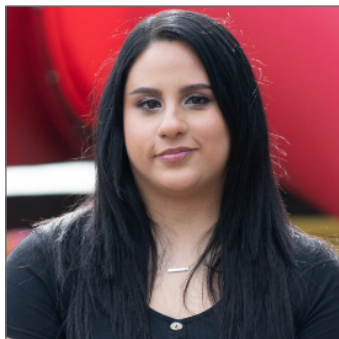
## Metropolitan State University of Denver

### Jessica Reed

Special Education

Jessica entered college for her undergraduate degree as a single mother in her early twenties. She was the first and only person in her family to ever go to college and overcoming adversities in her life led her to pursue a meaningful career in the field of service. As an undergraduate, she was a Child Welfare Stipend recipient. She is currently pursuing her master's degree in teaching. She has a passion for working with students and providing as many opportunities for quality education and inclusion for students with disabilities.

Jessica is a strong advocate for students with special education needs. As a second-year special education alternative licensure teacher, she has a strong voice for restorative justice practices. She has been provided with numerous leadership opportunities to support her colleagues in gaining a better understanding of equitable behavior management strategies.



### Stephanie Shufelt

Elementary Education, Culturally and Linguistically  
Diverse Education

Stephanie Shufelt is originally from Texas. She moved to Colorado three years ago after moving back from South Korea. She served in the Air Force for nine years as a tactical aircraft maintainer working on F16s. After she separated from the military, she worked as a substitute at Osan Air Base for a year and got the wonderful opportunity to fill in for a long-term substitute position as a paraprofessional in kindergarten.

"I decided to pursue a degree in education because I loved what I was doing and wanted to make it my second career. I had incredible mentors who were influential and encouraged me to get a degree in elementary education. Most of all, the kindergarten kids were a joy to be around and their excitement for learning was so contagious that it was hard not to enjoy working with them."

Stephanie was selected because not only is she a high-achieving student but she has also had such an impact on children and those around her. She cares deeply about her students' academic and behavioral achievements and does everything she can to help them succeed. Her ability to integrate Trauma-Informed Practices into her teaching creates a safe and welcoming learning environment. Stephanie is highly respected by her peers and faculty members at MSU Denver and she is often looked to for advice and guidance.

# 2022 Future Educator Honor Roll

## Metropolitan State University of Denver



### **Hannah Sievert**

K-12 Physical Education

Hannah Sievert came to Metro for a second degree a few years ago to pursue her dreams of becoming a K-12 physical educator. She's completing her second degree this spring and a student teaching internship in Denver Public Schools with a job offer already in hand.

Hannah is personable, caring, goal-oriented, reflective, and always willing to be a team player or perform any teaching duties asked of her. She's a compassionate teacher who will be amazing for her students and for the community in which she serves!

## Metropolitan State University of Denver, Alternative Licensure Program

### **Michael Hoshall**

Special Education

Michael is an Alternative License Master's student in Special Education at MSU Denver. He grew up with family who taught Special Education, but he took a different career path into the business world after college. He realized that his passion was working with students with special needs, and is working in a Multi-Intensive Autism program at a high school in Denver Public Schools.

I selected Michael because he exudes such joy in learning and serving his students and families. He brings me a renewed energy and passion for this difficult work in the field of Special Education. I hope that Michael will inspire others in this field that needs the inspiration of someone who has found their passion, in spite of how difficult it may be at times.

Video clip: <https://youtu.be/2InpSgiqvcY>

"Every child deserves a champion – an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be."

– Rita Pierson

# 2022 Future Educator Honor Roll

## Regis University

### **Giselle Garcia Gonzalez**

Secondary Math, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education

Giselle Garcia Gonzalez is a Denver native and became a teacher to go back into the community to teach multilingual/multicultural students. She is presently teaching math to middle school students at Denver School of Science and Technology Elevate and excels in all aspects of her teaching. Giselle is dedicated, intelligent and creative.



### **Mary Lawler**

Elementary Education

Mary Lawler is from Iowa and will be graduating from Regis University's elementary education program with a CLD and Sped endorsement. She is this year's recipient of the Sam Waldman award for excellence in education because she exemplifies the hard work, dedication and HEART of what it means to teach. She has a strong interest in pursuing her passion of teaching with the integration of education for more than just the mind but also in social justice.

Mary is a sincere, hardworking and dedicated student. She has an inquisitive mind and an ingenious ability to comprehend, analyze and question difficult topics such as racism, discrimination, poverty, and inequalities in schools.

## Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design



### **Shannon Schultheis**

K-12 Art Education

Shannon Schultheis moved to Denver from Arkansas to study art education and fine arts at RMCAD. Since her first art education course, Shannon's love of learning and impressive creative work has made her stand out throughout our program. This spring her work is on display in the Phillip J. Steele Gallery and she will be student teaching this upcoming fall.

Shannon embodies our program philosophy in and throughout her teaching and creative practices. An active member of our learning community and program, we are very proud of this talented arts educator!

# 2022 Future Educator Honor Roll

## St. Vrain Valley Schools, Pathways to Teaching

### Ashley Rojas Carbajal

Early Childhood Education

Ashley Rojas Carbajal is about to start her student teaching year and she is planning and leading groups in her apprenticeship. Ashley is in an elementary Students with Significant Needs classroom, is very collaborative and takes initiative. Ashley chose to be a teacher because she loves to work with kids and wants to be a support system for her community.

"I will help my community in any way I can."

Ashley sees a need and knows what to do without direction. She is flexible and adaptable, she models the same techniques and language as her lead teacher, and she has developed a strong teacher presence in her classroom. Ashley has made a beautiful commitment to say yes to the opportunities that come her way even if she doesn't feel overly confident about them, and she has honored her commitment this year.

### Deejha Blash Lopez

Early Elementary Teaching

Deejha Blash Lopez is about to start her student teaching in St Vrain and is planning and leading groups with her students. She is working in a significant support needs classroom. She has learned how to scaffold her students' academic and SEL needs and can shift to meet the needs of her students effortlessly in the moment.

Deejha has a can-do attitude and is deeply involved both in St Vrain as well as on the CU Denver campus. She is so effective in her teacher apprentice role that several district coordinators are already interested in hiring her once she gets her license. She has a natural ability to help her students understand the content and that she is there to support them through their process of learning, peers, and colleagues. Coral's intentionally and action planning in these reflections reflect her commitment to supporting each of her students.

"What we instill in our children will  
be the foundation upon which they  
build their future."

– Steve Maraboli



# 2022 Future Educator Honor Roll

## University of Colorado Boulder

### Angelica Gutierrez

Elementary Education

Angelica Gutierrez pushes and extends her learning in ways that center her bilingual students and demonstrate her deep critical consciousness. In her CU courses, Angelica is incredibly thoughtful, she is curious and she asks important questions. As one instructor noted, Angelica gets the “why” of what education should be. As a student teacher in a first-grade class at Ellis Elementary in Denver Public Schools, Angelica reflects on and applies feedback provided to her by her mentor teacher, instructors, and field coach.

Angelica has balanced a great deal to get to graduation at CU, often working two jobs while staying on top of her classwork and engaging fully in her practicum and student teaching placements. Angelica has also found time to engage in advocacy work in Adams 14, the district she grew up in. Thoughtful, optimistic, engaged. Angelica will be the teacher all students need.



### Daniela Varela

Secondary English Language Arts

Dani Varela is a dedicated educator for equity and justice, one who refuses to settle for a set curriculum for all and works instead with individual students, starting from where they are and guiding and nurturing their development to the places they envision themselves to be. She has taken on the uphill battle of shifting expectations at her field site, altering the tone of instruction by making it student-centered, advocating for the capacity of young people to engage with complexity, and working with a colleague to powerfully integrate social studies and English language arts content to disrupt disciplinary boundaries and focus instead on challenging questions that demand diverse perspectives to understand and answer. Dani is a ready learner and champion of young people, a combination that makes her an exemplary educator.

Daniela was selected as an outstanding graduate in our School of Education because of her demonstrated commitment to the school's mission/vision around social justice and democracy, her leadership, impact, and innovative efforts toward justice, equity, and diversity education and action and her excellence and positive impact in her courses, the field, and community.

Video clip: <https://youtu.be/QFUUXIVn8aw>

# 2022 Future Educator Honor Roll

## University of Colorado - Colorado Springs



### **Kenna Rae**

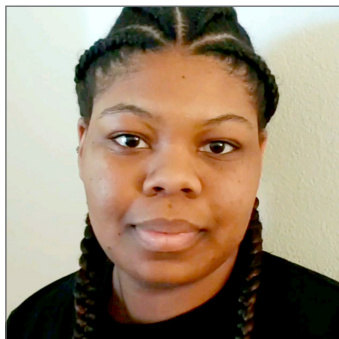
Special Education

Kenna Rae is originally from Toronto, Canada but has lived in Colorado Springs for 17 years. She is passionate about pursuing a career in education, specifically secondary special education. She decided to pursue a master's degree in special education at UCCS following her dream of being a secondary special education teacher.

"The program fostered this passion for me because I was learning so much about teaching students with disabilities and gaining as much knowledge as possible to be successful.

Kenna works as a paraprofessional in the Lewis-Palmer School District 38 Transitions Services, where she works with students that are 18-21 years old with a variety of disabilities. She has been offered a transitions teacher position for the summer ESY program.

Kenna's passion/advocacy for special education, persistence/success despite multiple challenges and excellence as a student-teacher make her rise to the top. Ideas and tweaking them to best fit her students' needs. Enya is a natural teacher and seems to feel completely at home in front of her class.



### **Dymond Watts**

Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Special Education

Dymond Watts has been deeply engaging in her professional preparation from her first days on campus, participating in every extra field experience opportunity, serving as a research assistant and growing into a peer leader and mentor. She serves her faith community on weekends as a childhood educator, where she has grown into a strong advocate for inclusion and best practices in early education. She is viewed as a mentor and support for other educators as she models deeply caring relationships with her students and nurtures optimal outcomes in each child.

Dymond is a top-performing student in her academic work, but her deep commitment to best practices in inclusive early education has made her stand out as our nominee for this award. Dymond is deeply reflective in her practice, ensuring an individual approach to her work with each child. She sees children as capable and competent, and her role is as a mentor, nurturer, and guide.

# 2022 Future Educator Honor Roll

## University of Colorado - Colorado Springs

### **Alissa Whitesell**

Secondary Mathematics

Alissa Whitesell is a non-traditional student pursuing an undergraduate degree in mathematics. She is a single mom, extremely hard-working and dedicated to becoming the best teacher that she can be. Alissa works part-time as a teaching assistant at Vista Ridge High School and is always willing to go above the call of duty to support her students.



### **Summer Wilson**

Secondary English Language Arts

Summer Wilson is from Colorado Springs. She wants to teach high school because it was the most challenging period of her life and wants to improve the teaching culture with more positivity and gratitude. She earned a Cesar Chavez Undergraduate Scholarship from UCCS for her research on how to improve inclusive education for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students in mainstream schools. She hopes to continue her education and become certified to teach ASL one day.

She is a reflective, genuine, thoughtful, and caring student-teacher. She is a great educator who continues to learn and grow.

Video clip: <https://youtu.be/ZC-RIFN31rl>

# 2022 Future Educator Honor Roll

## University of Colorado Colorado Springs, Alternative Licensure Program



### **Kenneth J. Buckey**

Secondary Mathematics

Ken Buckey honed his skills and passion for teaching and training throughout a 25-year career in the U.S. Army, where he served in various roles in the recruiting mission, ultimately as health services program analyst/operations division chief at the U.S. Army Recruiting Headquarters at Fort Knox, KY. Subsequently, he worked for four years as a medical recruiter in civilian life before being recruited himself to teach mathematics at Mitchell High School in Colorado Springs. His familiarity with current developments in STEM fields, which he honed while working with physicians and nurses as a healthcare recruiter, has helped him help his students identify areas for further exploration in their studies.

Ken's ability to contribute to his school's ambitious innovation pathways plan – in addition to keeping up with the demands of a rigorous alternative licensure program – speaks to his patience, persistence and commitment to his students. Fellow candidates in his cohort have been inspired by his work ethic, positive attitude, and leadership.



### **Julie C. Veazey**

Middle School Mathematics

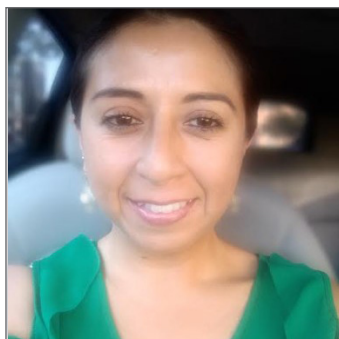
A graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Julie Veazey started her career as a Milstar spacecraft engineer and satellite instructor – where, she says, her passion for teaching started. After five years in the Air Force, Julie began a 25-year career with defense contractor Booz Allen Hamilton, where she worked as Aerospace Finance lead for a team of 25 people across 13 states and often served as a professional educator on financial topics for team members, program managers, and internal and external clients. . She says she always advised her two daughters, now adults, to find their passions, and to work in careers that they love, which is why she wanted her own “last career” to be as a math teacher. In August 2021 she joined the faculty of Horace Mann Middle School in Colorado Springs District 11.

Julie exemplifies a steady, unflustered focus on excellence. Julie has taken trials in stride, and her fellow candidates take heart from her example. She is collaborative, solution-focused, sensible, thoughtful and fun -- truly a role model for beginning teachers and experienced veterans alike.



# 2022 Future Educator Honor Roll

## University of Colorado Denver

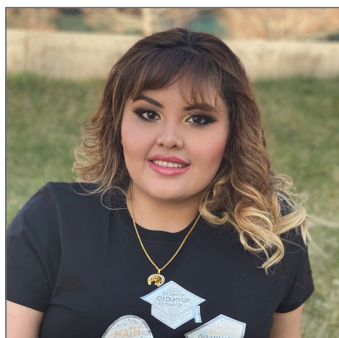


### **Soledad Montecino-Alarcon**

Early Childhood Education

Soledad Montecino-Alarcon is from Chile. She has two specific reasons to pursue education. First, she wants to be a positive role model for black and indigenous people. Second, and most importantly, she wants to be an agent of change in the public educational system. Completing her bachelor's degree and teaching license is a tremendous accomplishment as she is a second language learner who is getting a degree in a language and country that is not hers.

Soledad represents the most resilient, hard-working, dedicated qualities of humanity. She inspires all those around her to face the challenges of the world with optimism and hard work. She embraces all of her teaching and learning experiences with rigor and commitment. As a second language learner, she models for her bilingual students how to self-advocate, how to use multiple resources for learning and she models compassion for issues of equity, diversity and inclusion. Soledad is a relentless warrior for equity.



### **Joselyne Garcia-Moreno**

Secondary Mathematics

Joselyne Garcia-Moreno was born in Denver and when she was seven years old her parents decided to move to Durango, Mexico. She returned to the U.S. at the age of 14 as an emerging bilingual but unfortunately faced the trauma of numerous microaggressions in school. It wasn't until she attended Lincoln High School in Denver Public Schools that she made amazing connections with teachers who supported her to reach her potential. With the support of her parents, teachers, and mentors, she was able to graduate high school with a full year of college credits and go on to earn a bachelor's degree in general mathematics from CU Denver in just three years. She was admitted to CU Denver's Master of Arts in Teaching program and at the age of 22, is about to finish her master's program and teaching license in secondary mathematics, and has been accepted to begin a Latin@ and Communities Ed.D. program.

Joselyne demonstrates exceptional leadership, is an engaged scholar committed to the principles of equity and social justice in everything she does. She is a first-generation, bilingual, Latina-ready and excited to teach mathematics-- such a rare combination! She is a thoughtful and caring educator who always keeps her students at the forefront of her work as a teacher and has been a leader in the STEM program exploring social justice concerns across mathematics thinking about ways in which to bring those issues to life for her diverse students.

Video clip: <https://youtu.be/qxYNlb5cO50>

# 2022 Future Educator Honor Roll

## University of Northern Colorado



### Allison Eichner

Secondary English Language Arts

Allison Eichner grew up in Broomfield before pursuing a secondary education degree at the University of Northern Colorado. With a degree in English secondary education and culturally linguistically diverse endorsement, she intends to begin her teaching career in Colorado. Like most teachers, Allison was inspired to pursue education by a handful of teachers in her life including her father and 10th-grade English teacher. In her career, Allison hopes to inspire students to read widely and speak boldly of their passions.

Allison has been a quiet but consistent quality teacher candidate in EED impressing mentor teachers, students, and faculty alike. Beyond the relationships that she has worked so diligently to build with students, Allison has impressed her mentor teachers as well. Her mentor teacher for student teaching said that she is so impressed with Allison's ability from the very first day that she has had time to relax for the first time in years.

Video clip: <https://youtu.be/m-vSJqpi6wg>

### Noah Lovell

Special Education

Noah Lovell is from Fort Collins. He knew that he wanted to become a special educator during high school where he volunteered in special education classrooms. During his time at the University of Northern Colorado, Noah maintained excellent grades while also working as a para-educator. He is currently finishing his student teaching and will teach for the Poudre School District in the fall.

Noah was unanimously selected for this honor by his instructors. Noah excelled in both his university classes as well as in his K-12 field experiences. Throughout his coursework, Noah's work ethic was obvious. His assignments were meticulously completed, adhering to both the content being taught and the needs of his students. Noah shined in his field placements. He built a strong rapport with teachers and students. He used the entire class period to teach to his objective but incorporated a variety of activities to engage his students and wasn't afraid to have fun - yet he always maintained instructional control.

Video clip: - <https://youtu.be/3475m-Zd7eg>

# 2022 Future Educator Honor Roll

## University of Northern Colorado, Center for Urban Education



### **Flor Contreras**

Elementary Education, Culturally and Linguistically  
Diverse Education

Flor Contreras accepted the 3rd-grade Spanish teaching position at Emory Elementary in the Jefferson County School District for fall 2022. She has been working at Emory as a paraprofessional for the past several years and her principal wanted to hire her a year ago (before she completed her degree)! Emory Elementary School is a dual language school and Flor is making such a big difference in the lives of children and their families.

Flor's first language is Spanish and she is a talented teacher and endearing person. She moved with her parents from Mexico as a young child and has served as an important translator and thinker for her parents. Flor is driven to serve all children and she works tirelessly to be sure that each child gets their social, emotional and academic needs met.

Video clip: <https://youtu.be/Bv8LH9ZtSW8>

## West Central Alternative Licensure Program

### **Jodi Brown**

Elementary Education

Jodi Brown came from the Pinhead Institute. She took a long-term sub position and fell in love with teaching. This year, she began her ATL program and has knocked our socks off. She is so great with her students. She prioritizes their mental health and spends time helping them to work through problems while helping them excel in content too.

Video clip: <https://youtu.be/Ldak0ikBMLQ>

# 2022 Future Educator Honor Roll

## Western Colorado University

### **Cody Gilliam**

Special Education

Cody Gilliam is an exceptional special education resident who is completing his licensure at Sky Vista Middle School. He is positive, engaging and committed to his students. He recently accepted a position at Cherry Creek Schools and has excelled in both his academics and his placement.

Cody was recommended by his mentor and his regional coordinator. The Director of Special Education at Western commended him on his commitment to his students, his positive attitude and dedication to the field.

### **Chase Starman**

K-12 Physical Education

Chase Starman plays football for Western Colorado University and has been an outstanding addition to the program. He is dedicated to his students and his studies and consistently goes out of his way to find ways to engage and connect with all of his students. He is a positive role model and will have an immediate impact on his future students.

Chase always has a smile on his face and exudes positivity. He has worked hard to build strong relationships with his colleagues and students. He has been an exemplary student in my online classes, always demonstrating mastery of the content and his ability to implement suggested strategies. He seeks feedback and acts upon it immediately. His self-reflection skills are impressive. He can teach a lesson and immediately determine what went well, what didn't and why. Then, he turns around and makes changes to his instruction based on those reflections..



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